

REMARKS REGARDING THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 6-9, 11, 12, 14-16, and 26-30 are pending.

Claims 1 and 17-20 were previously cancelled without prejudice for presentation in this or a later submitted application. Claims 2-5, 10, 13 and 21-25 are cancelled herein without prejudice for presentation in this or a later submitted application.

Claims 6-7, 9, 11, 14 and 16 are currently amended as follows:

Claims 6, 14 and 16 have been amended to delete "multi-round".

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to explicitly include the limitations of original Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6. This amendment of Claim 6 is to bring it into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to explicitly include the limitations of original Claims 1, 4 and 7. This amendment of Claim 7 is to bring it into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability.

Claims 9 and 11 have been amended to correct their dependency as a result of the current amendment so that Claims 9 and 11 now depends from new Claim 26. This amendment of Claims 9 and 11 is to bring the claims into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability.

Claim 14 has been amended to more clearly set out certain elements of Applicants' invention as suggested by the Examiner. This amendment of Claim 14 is to bring it into compliance for form and is not made for reasons of patentability over the prior art.

Claims 26 -30 are newly added. Support for new Claims 26-28 can be found in at least Figs. 2-4; paragraphs 8, and 33-35 and original Claims 1-5 and 10. Claim 29 is based on

allowed Claim 6 but does not include the limitation that the cartridge plate is recessed toward the outlet manifold. Claim 30 is dependent on Claim 14. Support for new Claim 30 can be found in at least Figs. 2-4; paragraphs 8, and 33-35 and 45.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Popovics and Supervisory Patent Examiner Duane Smith for the interviews conducted with the undersigned on July 15, 2004. During which SPE Smith indicated the finality of the outstanding office action was improper and would be withdrawn. A new office action would be issued responsive to the amendment mailed December 30, 2003. This amendment is in response to the new non-final office action.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing structures without a "horizontal surface" as recited in Claim 13. Accordingly, Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 3, 9, 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being incomplete for allegedly "omitting essential elements"; *an inlet, an outlet and cartridge filter bores* were identified as the omitted elements. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled and Claim 9 has been amended to depend from new Claim 26. Claim 14 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-16 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for the recitation "multi-round filter housing". While applicants respectfully submit this term is clear and well known in the art, applicants have changed the term to "filter housing" in Claims 6, 14 and 16. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND 103 AND ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2-5, 10-12 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by Ogden (US 3,727,764). New Claim 26 incorporates many of the features of cancelled Claims 2, 4, 5 and 10, thus, applicants comments are directed thereto. The Examiner indicates Ogden has a dome 13 and integrated base 11. To support his rejection, the Examiner manipulates Fig. 1 of Ogden by cutting and pasting it upside down into his Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit the filtering apparatus of Ogden is not designed to operate upside down and that element 11 of Ogden is not a “base” as claimed by applicants. A “base”, as defined by The American Heritage[®] Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition, 2000 is the lowest or bottom part. Element 11 of Ogden is not consistent with this definition. The only manner in which element 11 of Ogden is the lowest part is if one were to place the filtering apparatus of Ogden in an inoperable position.

Likewise, element 11 of Ogden does not have a cartridge plate having an upper face which slopes downwardly from an outer edge of the upper face to the outlet manifold. The surface of element 11 merely has a rounded portion adjacent a horizontal surface. The surface of element 11 is not an upper surface. It does not slope. It does not slope downwardly. Nor does it slope from an outer edge to an outlet manifold. Nor does element 11 have an upper surface through which are bored a plurality of cartridge filter bores each adapted for matingly accepting a cartridge filter. **The Examiner is silent as to what part of Ogden he considers to be “a plurality of cartridge filter bores” as recited in original Claim 4.** Ogden merely has a single central cavity 19 adapted to receive a single filter cartridge 25. Nor does any part of the filtering apparatus of Ogden have a plurality of cartridge filter bores each adapted for matingly accepting a cartridge filter. **There is no surface in Ogden which not only has an outlet manifold, an inlet manifold and a plurality of cartridge filter bores bored therethrough but also slopes downwardly from an outer edge of the surface to the outlet manifold.** Applicants respectfully submit Claim 26, as well as dependent Claims 9, 11, 12 and 27 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Likewise, applicants submit new Claim 28 is also allowable over the art of record. **There is no surface in Ogden which not only has an outlet manifold, an inlet manifold and a plurality of cartridge filter bores bored therethrough but also includes a recession which slopes to the inlet manifold, whereby the recession directs unfiltered product towards the inlet manifold when the filtering process is over.** Ogden does not have a plurality of cartridge filter bores. It does not have a recession which slopes to the inlet manifold or directs unfiltered product towards the inlet manifold when the filtering process is over.

Claims 2-4 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and (b) or, alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated by or unpatentable over either the Allegheny Bradford Corporation Brochure cited by Applicants or Pall Housing Data Sheets H21 or H25. Claims 2, 4 and 10 have been cancelled and Claims 9, 11 and 12 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from new Claim 26 which incorporates, among other things, the features of Claim 5 which was not included in this rejection.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6-8 and 13-16 were not rejected in view of prior art. These claims were indicated to include allowable subject matter in the Office Action mailed July 2, 2003. It is assumed that the Examiner intended, in the outstanding Office action, to indicate that Claims 6-8 and 13-16 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, original Claims 6 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. New Claim 29 is based on allowed Claim 6 but does not include the limitation that the cartridge plate is recessed toward the outlet manifold. Applicants respectfully submit the prior art of record does not show or suggest a "channel in said upper face of the cartridge plate, wherein said channel feeds into said inlet manifold" in combination with the other features of Claim 29. Applicants respectfully submit amended Claims 6 and 7, as well as dependent Claim 8 and new Claim 29, should be allowable since original Claims 6 and 7 have been indicated to be allowable. Likewise, Claim 14 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 14, as well as dependent Claims 15, 16 and 30, should be allowable as well. Moreover, the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action mailed July 8, 2004, Claims 6-8 and 14-16 amended as such would be allowable.

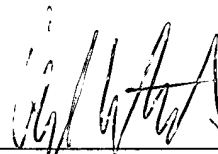
CONCLUSION

All of the Examiner's concerns have been addressed by the above amendments and clarifying remarks. Because the above independent claims are clearly not anticipated or obvious in light of the cited references, all outstanding claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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